



Western Metropolitan Region Macintosh Schools Network

Notes from our last Get-Together!
14/10/04

Thanks to everyone, who came along to our meeting at Williamstown Primary School.
Details for our next meeting on are written below.

Thanks,
Deb and Mark.

1. Web Site Update

Mark took us through the Bulletin Board at our website and asked that people join up as members and post questions/ responses. Please keep checking back from time to time to keep the board active.

Check out our Bulletin Board at:

<http://wmr-msn.williamstownps.vic.edu.au/bulletinboard/bulletinboard.htm>

2. Apple Support

Deb read through the minutes from our last meeting, which were accepted as accurate.

Moved: Steve Palmer

Seconded: Justin Lewis

The discussion that followed centred around whether writing letters of protest was a useful way to focus our attention?

Who should we target with our letters?

Members agreed to postpone the action until 2005 and investigate the best way to approach the issue.

3. Apple Software Availability

The lack of Apple Software available cheaper or by special licensing agreements from the Rolling Fund, through DE&T and/or Ipex was discussed. Once again we decided to postpone possible action on this until next year, while Deb and Mark investigated the following questions.

What process do we go through to get Macintosh products onto the Rolling Fund?

What is the structure of IT in the Department? Who is responsible for what? Is there a flow chart with names somewhere? ☺

4. WMR-MSN Development

The group discussed the need to promote the network more widely to gather membership from other Macintosh schools. Many members were aware of schools with Macs, particularly secondary schools that were not on the mailing list. It would be great if we could hold some of our meetings next year at secondary schools.

Please send any schools/names/contacts for other Mac schools (Independent and Catholic schools welcome) to Deb or Mark for follow up.

Hicks.debra.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Richardson.mark.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

5. WPS School Tour

Mark took us on a tour of Williamstown Primary School. The school is currently undergoing a Major upgrade. Everyone was very impressed with the temporary network arrangements; cat 5 cable suspended from a couple of poles in the yard is keeping the school and the Mac network website connected to the world!

Williamstown Primary School is one of the oldest government schools in the state. ■

The bluestone building, opened in 1877, is considered to be the finest example of school architecture of its period and is classified by the National Trust. ■ We visited many classrooms to see how pods of computers were used. A new pod of 14 eMacs are currently being used by Grade 5/6 students to create short films using iMovie.

See the photos at the gallery on our web site!

<http://wmr-msn.williamstownps.vic.edu.au/photogallery/>

6. Professional Development Packages 2005

Members have been very positive about our new initiative to run PD programs in 2005. Essendon North Primary School has kindly offered their multimedia centre as a location to run some of the sessions. Justin has also offered to provide a pod of eight or so laptops and a café location for sessions as well. We aim to take up these offers in the new year. Thanks!!

A number of housekeeping issues were raised and briefly discussed about the organisation of the program. Mark and Deb will raise these with Jill Reading at their end-of-year evaluation session.

7. Thanks-You

Justin brought along a new G5 iMac for all to drool over. Everyone was suitably impressed!

Sadly, it went back to the shop, being only slightly too big to fit in our pockets!
Thanks for the peek, Justin.



Next Meeting...

When: Thursday November 25th
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Where: Footscray West Primary School,
Argyle Street, Footscray West

Phone: 9687-1535



Carolyn McCabe, from the Education Channel, will take us through the Channel web site briefly and talk about how we can create and publish web quests.
Deb Hicks will host the meeting.
Coffee & nibbles etc., provided
Followed by an end of year celebratory meal at the Plough Hotel.